





Left: Average significant wave height (m) in January and July. Above: difference between January and July average significant wave height. The observations confirm that waves are generally largest in the winter (January for the Northern Hemisphere and July for the Southern Hemisphere). In the central north Atlantic, winter waves usually exceed 5 m (16 ft) in height. (Data from the Poseidon-2 and other altimeters, and courtesy of the AVISO data service, copyright CNES-CLS 2006.)